

**METRIC**

**A-A-20294**  
**June 24, 1999**

## **COMMERCIAL ITEM DESCRIPTION**

### **VEGETABLE BLENDS, FROZEN**

**The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has authorized the use of this Commercial Item Description.**

#### **1. SCOPE.**

**1.1** This Commercial Item Description (CID) covers individually frozen vegetable blends, packed in commercially acceptable containers, suitable for use by Federal, State, local governments, and other interested parties.

#### **2. CLASSIFICATION.**

**2.1** The frozen vegetable blends shall conform to the following type and pack sizes specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order.

##### **Types and pack sizes.**

- Type I** - California or Normandy Blend (cut broccoli, cauliflower florets, and cut carrots)
- Type II** - Chuckwagon Blend (cut corn, diced onions, diced red and green peppers)
- Type III** - Corn Blend (cut corn, broccoli, edible cob corn, and cut carrots)
- Type IV** - Oriental Blend (French style green beans, cut broccoli, onions, sliced mushrooms, and/or red peppers)
- Type V** - Italian Blend or 5 Blend (zucchini squash, sliced carrots, cauliflower, Italian green beans, and baby lima beans)

**Beneficial comments, recommendations, additions, deletions, clarifications, etc., and any data which may improve this document should be sent to: Program Head, Food Quality Assurance Program (FQAP), Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), USDA, STOP 0243, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0243, telephone (202) 720-9939, or FAX (202) 690-0102.**

**FSC 8915**

**DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT** A. Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

- Type VI** - Midwest or Country Blend (sliced carrots, green beans, and cut corn)

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**Type VII** - Scandinavian Blend (peas, sliced zucchini squash, julienne carrots, cut green beans or short green beans, and chopped onion)

**Type VIII** - Stew Vegetables Blend (peel potatoes, chunk carrots, sliced celery, and creamer onions)

**Type IX** - Stir Fry Blend (whole and/or julienne green beans; snap peas; soy beans, and/or snow peas; celery; red peppers; water chestnuts; and onion slices)

**Type X** - Winter Blend (broccoli cuts and small or large cauliflower clusters)

**Type XI** - Other

**Pack size 1** - 454 grams (16 ounce) poly bags

**Pack size 2** - 907 grams (32 ounce) poly bags

**Pack size 3** - 2.72 kg (3-2 pound poly bags) [net weight 6 pounds]

**Pack size 4** - Other

### **3. SALIENT CHARACTERISTICS.**

**3.1 Ingredients:** The frozen vegetable blends shall be prepared and blanched from clean, sound, properly-matured vegetables, and are frozen and maintained at a temperature necessary for preservation of the product.

**3.1.1 Frozen ingredients:** For vegetables with U.S. Grade Standards, the quality of each individual frozen vegetable in the vegetable blends shall be equivalent to U.S. Grade A, except that sweet peas, yellow whole kernel corn, and cauliflower shall be equivalent to U.S. Grade B or better for maturity.

#### **3.2 Finished product:**

**3.2.1 Flavor and odor:** The frozen vegetable blends shall have characteristic flavors and odors of the vegetables in the blend.

**3.2.2 Color:** Each type of vegetable shall possess bright color; characteristic of each vegetable in the blend.

**3.2.3 Defects:** Each type of vegetable shall be reasonably free from, but not limited to peels, stems, eyes, discoloration, damaged units, wilting, bruising, cuts, fuzziness, riciness, mold, fibrous, woody, and cob material.

**3.2.4 Foreign material:** The frozen vegetable blends shall be free from foreign material such as, but not limited to, dirt, insect parts, hair, wood, glass, or metal.

**3.2.5 Texture/Maturity:** Each type of vegetable shall have good texture/maturity, except

peas, yellow whole kernel corn, and cauliflower shall be reasonably tender in maturity, or better.

**3.2.6 Temperature:** Storage and delivery temperatures of -17.8°C (0°F) or less are recommended.

#### **4. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.**

**4.1** The delivered frozen vegetable blends shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local mandatory requirements and regulations relating to the preparation, packaging, labeling, storage, distribution, and sales of the frozen vegetable blends in the commercial marketplace. Delivered frozen vegetable blends shall conform in every respect to the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and regulations promulgated thereunder.

#### **5. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS.** *Purchaser shall specify 5.1 or 5.2.*

**5.1 Product conformance.** The frozen vegetable blends provided shall meet the salient characteristics of this CID, conform to the producer's own specifications, standards, and quality assurance practices, and be the same frozen vegetable blends offered for sale in the commercial market. The purchaser reserves the right to require proof of such conformance.

**5.2 USDA certification.** When the solicitation, contract, or purchase order requires that frozen vegetable blends quality or acceptability, or both be determined, the Processed Products Branch (PPB), AMS, USDA shall be the certifying activity and shall make the determination in accordance with applicable PPB procedures. The frozen vegetable blends shall be examined or analyzed, or both, in accordance with applicable provisions in the CID, and when applicable, the United States Standards for Condition of Food Containers in effect on the date of the solicitation.

#### **6. PACKAGING.**

**6.1 Preservation, packaging, packing, labeling, and case marking.** Preservation, packaging, packing, labeling, and case marking shall be as specified in the solicitation, contract, or purchase order.

#### **7. NOTES.**

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### **7.1 Purchaser shall specify:**

- Types and pack sizes of frozen vegetables blends required.
- Product conformance (5.1) or USDA certification (5.2).

### **7.2 USDA certification contact.**

For USDA certification, contact the Branch Chief, PPB, STOP 0247, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0247, telephone (202) 720-4693, or FAX (202) 690-1527.

### **7.3 Sources of documents.**

#### **7.3.1 Sources of information for governmental documents are as follows:**

Applicable provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act are contained in 21 CFR Parts 1 to 199. This document may be purchased from: **Superintendent of Documents, New Orders, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954.** Credit card (MasterCard or Visa) purchases may be made by calling the Superintendent of Documents on (202) 512-512-1803 or on the Internet at: <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg>.

Copies of the United States Standards for Condition of Food Containers are available from: **Chairperson, Condition of Container Committee, USDA, STOP 0243, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0243.**

Copies of the U.S. Standards for Grades of processed vegetables are available from: **Chief, PPB, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, Stop 0247, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0247.**

Civil agencies and other interested parties may obtain copies of this CID from: **General Services Administration, Federal Supply Service, Specifications Section, Suite 8100, 470 East L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC 20407.**

## **CIVIL AGENCY COORDINATING ACTIVITIES:**

DOJ - BOP  
HHS - NIH, IHS  
USDA - FV  
VA - OSS

**PREPARING ACTIVITY:**

**USDA - FV**

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